

Applicant: Giuseppe Dal Pra'

Application No.: 10/041,569

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-8 were made subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. However, in order to advance prosecution of the Application, Applicant elects the species corresponding to Figures 1-5. Claims 1-5 are generic and are readable on the elected species and the non-elected species corresponding to Figures 6-9. Claim 6 is also readable on the elected species.

Claims 1-8 are drawn to a ratcheting and indexing gear change mechanism. The elected species differs from the non-elected species in the location of gear teeth and a rocker arm associated therewith.

A restriction requirement based on distinction is proper if the inventions are distinct and a serious burden on the Examiner exists in examining the application. Applicant respectfully submits that no serious burden exists in examining all of the claims in the application. The inventions of Figures 1-5 and 6-9, as separated by the Examiner, are so inter-related as to require a same field of search. Consequently, no serious burden exists. As such, examination of all of the pending claims together would be more efficient than separating the claims for examination in different applications.

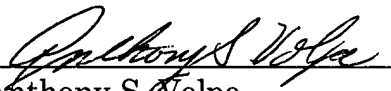
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In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all of the pending claims. If for any reason the Examiner believes that an interview, either telephonically or in person, would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Giuseppe Dal Pra'

By  ✓
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ASV/DPD
Enclosure